Import of Gas for setting up Power Projects in Gujarat

*26 SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that it has been decided to import gas to establish gas based power projects in Gujrat;

(b)if so, the details of quantity of gas to be imported and the electricity generated; and

by when the plant would be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) There is no decision to import gas specifically for establishing gas based power project in Gujarat. It has been decided to encourage import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to meet natural gas demands from various sectors including the Power Sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir

*27. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whetner it is a fact that the incidents of terrorist infiltration have increased across the Jammu and Kashmir border in recent times;

(b)if so, the details in this regard;

(c)what action has been taken to overcome infiltration; and

(d)if reply to part (a) above be in the negative, how much decrease in the number of infiltration has taken place?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) While it is not possible to give exact figures of the number of infiltrators who have crossed into Jammu & Kashmir recently, the total number of militants who have been apprehended and killed during the period from January, 1998 upto 15th May, 1998 is indicated below:—

	Appr	ehended	Killed
January		48	52
February		94	56
March		88	39
April		59	62
Upto 15th May		62	9
TOTAL:		351	218

(c) and (d) The Security forces are keeping close surveillance along the Line of Control/liiternational Border. Night vision devices are being used for keeping watch. Patrolling has been intensified. Close coordination is being maintained between the security and the intelligence agencies to prevent infiltration/exfiltra-tion. The Village Defence Committees have been strengthened. The arrangements are being reviewed periodically.

Thorium-Based Nuclear Power Plant

*28. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether Indian scientists have developed any new technology to use thorium as a fuel for power generation in nuclear reactors; and

(b)if so, the time by which the thorium-based nuclear power plant is likely to be put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. With research and development (R&D) work carried out over the years in the research reactors at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trom-bay, Thorium has been successfully converted into Uranium (233). The reprocessing of Uranium (233) from the irradiated Thorium rods also has been carried out both at the BARC and the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR),